



Introduction

This policy has been written following guidance from NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

It aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza or any contagious illness.

The school recognises that infections such as influenza pandemics are not new. No-one knows exactly when the school will be faced with having to deal with a potentially contagious illness amongst its community. We recognise the need to be prepared.

The school will remain open unless a decision to close is made by the Head or, in his or her absence, a member of the Senior Management Team. If a decision to close the school is made in advance, this information will be posted on the School's Facebook page and in the News Flash section of the school website. Where possible, pupils will be informed directly and the school closure will be announced on West Sound and West FM.

Infections are likely to spread particularly rapidly in schools and as young children may have no residual immunity, they could be amongst the groups worst affected. Good pastoral care includes promoting healthy living and good hand hygiene. School staff will give pupils positive messages about health and well-being through PSE lessons and through conversations with pupils.

Planning & Preparing

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil has an infectious illness, we would direct their parents to report to their GP and keep in close contact with the school regarding the likely duration of the absence. In the event of a member of staff becoming aware that they have an infectious illness, please keep in close contact with the school regarding the likely duration of your absence.

Infection Control

Infections are usually spread from person to person by close contact, for example:

- Infected people can pass a virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing or even talking within a close distance.
- Through direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- By touching objects (e.g. door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

Staff and students are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

- Wash your hands regularly, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Minimise contact between your hands and mouth/nose, unless you have just washed your hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not attend school if you think you may have an infectious illness.

These messages are promoted through posters around the school, in assemblies and through Personal and Social Education lessons.

Hand washing is the single most important part of infection control in schools.

To control the spread of infection:

- We ensure good hand washing procedures (e.g. after going to the toilet, handling animals, working with soil, before preparing and eating food)
- Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses when necessary and to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically.
- We wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents. (e.g. gloves)

In order to prevent the spread of infections in school we follow the guidelines set by NHS Ayrshire and Arran, regarding the recommended period of time that pupils should be absent from school.

A summary of the most common conditions and recommended periods of absence is shown below.

Diarrhoea & Vomiting Illness:

<u>Illness or condition</u>	<u>Recommended period of absence</u>
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours from the last episode
E Coli 1571	Exclusion and school to consult with HPT
Typhoid and paratyphoid (Enteric fever)	Exclusion and school to consult with HPT
Shigella (Dysentery)	Exclusion and school to consult with HPT

Respiratory Infections:

<u>Illness or condition</u>	<u>Recommended period of absence</u>
Influenza	Until recovered
Tuberculosis	Exclusion and school to consult with HPT
Whooping cough	5 days from commencing antibiotics or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment has been prescribed.

Rashes & Skin Infections:

<u>Illness or condition</u>	<u>Recommended period of absence</u>
Athlete's foot	none
Chicken Pox	5 days from onset of rash/until spots have dried
Cold sores (Herpes)	None
German measles (Rubella)	5 days from onset of rash
Hand, Foot and Mouth	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles	5 days from onset of rash
Ringworm	Until treatment is commenced
Roseola (infantum)	None
Scabies	Pupil can return after the first treatment
Scarlet fever	5 days after commencing antibiotics
Slapped cheek	None
Warts and Verrucae	None
Shingles	Exclude if the rash is weeping/can't be covered

Other Infections:

<u>Illness or condition</u>	<u>Recommended period of absence</u>
Conjunctivitis	Until treatment is commenced
Diphtheria	Exclusion essential, school to consult with HPT
Glandular Fever	None
Headlice	None
Hepatitis A	Exclusion, school to consult with HPT
Hepatitis B or C	None

HIV / AIDS	None
Meningococcal meningitis / septicaemia	Until recovered
Bacterial Meningitis	Until recovered
Viral Meningitis	None
MRSA	None
Mumps	5 days from the onset of swollen glands
Threadworms	None
Tonsillitis	None

It is important to note that the School is unable to authorise absence on medical grounds for conditions where the guidelines state that no period of absence is recommended; e.g. headlice.

If a child is unwell in school, the following action will be taken:

Nursery

The Key Worker will contact the parent, or emergency contact in the event of the parent being unavailable, and arrangements will be made for the child to be collected.

Junior School

The Class Teacher will contact the parent, or emergency contact in the event of the parent being unavailable, and arrangements will be made for the child to be collected.

Senior School

Pupils must report to the Main Office. They will then be sent to Mrs Shrinivas. Mrs Shrinivas will make a decision as to whether the pupil should return to class or be sent home. She will take advice from a member of the Senior Management Team, if necessary.

To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection:

- Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they have an infection, and to inform the school as to the nature of the infection.
- Parents are reminded not to bring a child to school who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack.

Support for Staff, Students, Parents and Carers

The school has a number of Qualified First Aiders who assess pupils and staff before recommending further action. Individuals who are believed to have an infectious illness will be sent home and are advised to contact their GP or local hospital.

Important Contact Details:

Mrs N. O'Connell
 AHT (Pupil Welfare)
 Tel: 01292 269321
 E-mail: noconnell@wellingtonschool.org

School Nurse
 Mrs Ann McKay
 Room 2, 1st Floor
 Biggart Hospital
 01292 665736
 Email: mckay.ann@aapct.scot.nhs.uk

Health Protection Team
NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Tel: 01292 611040
Tel: 01563 521133 (Out of Hours)
Fax: 01292 885902
E-mail: HPTeam@aapct.scot.nhs.uk

Useful links:

www.hpa.org.uk
www.immunisation.nhs.uk

Fact Sheets and further information are also available at:
www.hpa.org.uk

Hygiene education resource:
www.healthcareA2Z.org.uk
www.buginvestigators.co.uk

N.O'Connell September 2017
Infection Control Policy